

In re Patent Application of
MARIAUD ET AL.
Serial No. 09/990,629
Filed: NOVEMBER 16, 2001

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful and thorough examination of the present application, and for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 7-17 and 22-26 remain pending in the application.

Initially, Applicants point out that the formal drawings submitted February 13, 2002 include the label "Prior Art" for FIGs. 1-3. Accordingly, the Examiner's objection of the drawings on page 2 of the Office Action is moot.

Favorable reconsideration of the claim rejection is respectfully requested.

I. The Invention

As shown in FIGS. 6-8, for example, the disclosed invention is directed to automatic monitoring of the input terminal VBUS while avoiding the regular and frequent intervention of the microcontroller program. The device of the invention automatically controls a voltage Vcc applied to one of two data conductors of a USB type serial link cable in a peripheral apparatus connected upstream to another apparatus. The logic control circuit connected to the memory operates the supply voltage source only if the stored logic value indicates that the second voltage is present, to protect and prevent the second peripheral apparatus from receiving the first voltage via the first conductor wire of the USB when the second voltage is not present.

II. The Claims are Patentable

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the

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written description requirement. The Examiner again indicated the allowability of the subject matter of Claims 8, 14 and 23. Applicants contend that Claims 7-17 and 22-26 are clearly supported by the specification as filed, and in view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is requested.

Applicants point out that the specification discusses the risk of damage to the peripheral device (page 2 of the specification) and that the logic control circuit connected to the memory operates the supply voltage source only if the stored logic value indicates that the second voltage is present (e.g. pages 5 and 9 of the specification). Accordingly, it is clear from the specification as filed that the logic control circuit connected to the memory operates the supply voltage source only if the stored logic value indicates that the second voltage is present, to protect and prevent the second peripheral apparatus from receiving the first voltage via the first conductor wire of the USB when the second voltage is not present, as claimed.

As the Examiner should be aware, there is no "exact words" requirement in 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Newly added claim language may be supported in the specification through express, implicit, or inherent disclosure. An amendment does not constitute a written description problem where one skilled in the art would recognize the existence of the feature in the specification.

Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

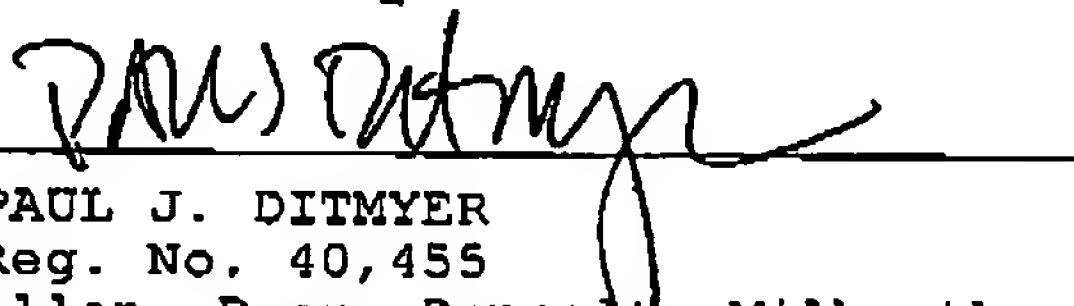
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The claims were not rejected in view of any prior art, and it is submitted that the claims are patentable over the prior art.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited. If, after reviewing this Response, there are any remaining informalities which need to be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited and respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve such informalities.

Respectfully submitted,


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